

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, implemented by a computer system programmed to configure a business process for scheduling, the method comprising:

forming, by the computer system, a graph representing the business process that comprises activities, each activity comprising at least one of a start date type and a stop date type, the activities being in a time relationship to each other, wherein the business process is configurable with respect to the activities and with respect to the time relationships of the activities to each other; and

performing, by the computer system, a backward depth-first search on the graph to schedule the activities according to a reverse chronological order from an entry point to a first date presented in the graph, followed by a forward depth-first search on the graph to schedule remaining activities according to a chronological order from the entry point, the entry point being a date with the highest priority.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein a technical ID is associated with at least one of the activities or with a date type.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein a text is associated with at least one of the activities or with a date type, the text being descriptive for the at least one of the activities or for the date type.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein time units are assigned to specific date types, the time units being configurable for each date type.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the activities can be modeled as a plurality of subprocesses.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein a sub-process comprise a plurality of the activities.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a decision whether or not a delegation is invoked is during run-time of the scheduling.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one service function is assigned to at least one activity, the service function being usable for determination of time zone, calendar and duration of the at least one activity.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one service function is assigned to at least one activity, the service function being usable, during scheduling, for determining start date or finish date of the at least one activity.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one delegation scheme is assigned to at least one activity, the delegation the service function being usable for invoking, during scheduling, an external application for determining start date or finish date of the at least one activity.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the activities and their time relationship are representable by the graph as a network of nodes and edges, each node representing one of the plurality of activities, and each edge connecting a pair of nodes and representing a predecessor-successor relationship of the activities represented by the respective pair of nodes.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a scheduling scheme is produced based on the configured business process, whereby the scheduling scheme is a set of meta data descriptive of how the individual activities are to be processed within scheduling.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a scheduling scheme is associated to the business process, the scheduling scheme comprising configuration data to at least one of duration, calendar, and time zone.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a scheduling scheme is associated to the business process, the scheduling scheme comprising configuration data to at least one of service function, and delegation process model.

15. (Currently Amended) A method, implemented by a computer system programmed to configure a production process for simulating, the method comprising:

forming, by the computer system, a graph representing the production process that comprises a plurality of elements, each element comprising at least one of a start date type and a stop date type, the elements being in a time relationship to each other, wherein the production process is configurable with respect to the plurality of elements and with respect to the time relationships of the elements to each other; and

performing, by the computer system, a backward depth-first search on the graph to simulate schedule the elements according to a reverse chronological order from an entry point to a first date presented in the graph, followed by a forward depth-first search on the graph to schedule remaining elements according to a chronological order from the entry point, the entry point being a date with the highest priority.